



# Firearms and Fireworks Safety

Presented By:  
Division of Capitol Police  
[www.dcp.virginia.gov](http://www.dcp.virginia.gov)  
June 16, 2015



# Brendon Mackey

7 years old struck in the head by a stray bullet on July 4, 2013



# Firearms

*The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia* Center for Injury Research and Prevention

**Gun owners in a household (predominantly men) are more likely to report that their gun is stored unlocked and loaded, compared to the non-owners (predominantly women) in those households. This argues for better education of household members regarding safe storage in homes with children.**

**The U.S. General Accounting Office estimated that 31 percent of accidental deaths caused by firearms might be prevented with the addition of 2 devices: a child-proof safety lock and a loading indicator**

**Among children, 89 percent of unintentional shooting deaths occur in the home. Most of these deaths occur when children are playing with a loaded gun in their parent's absence.**



# Firearm Safety

- **Four Fundamental Firearm Safety Rules**
- **Weapons in Your Home**
  - **Safe Storage**
- **Children and Weapons**
- **Carrying a Firearm**
- **Gun Laws**



# Handling Firearms

## SAFETY FIRST



RANGEHOT.COM

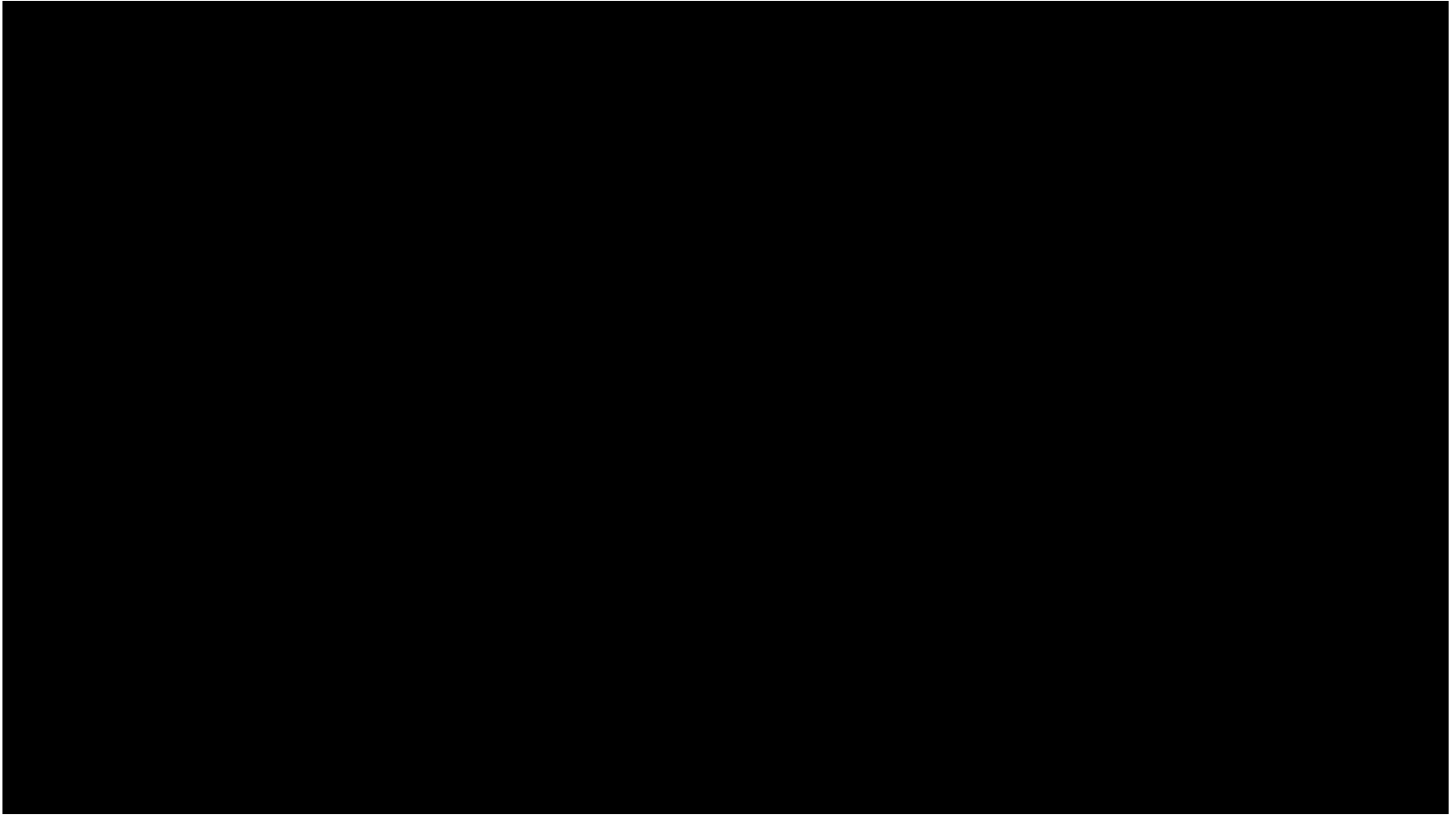
- 1 TREAT ALL FIREARMS AS IF THEY ARE LOADED
- 2 ALWAYS KEEP THE MUZZLE POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION
- 3 FINGER OFF THE TRIGGER UNTIL YOU ARE READY TO SHOOT
- 4 KNOW YOUR TARGET & BEYOND

# Handling Firearms

- Do not allow children or unauthorized users access to the firearms.
- Obtain firearm training
- Handle weapons only while sober
  - No alcohol
  - No illegal drugs
  - No prescriptions drugs that impairs you



# Instructor Shoots Himself in Leg



# Weapons in Your Home





# Safe Firearm Storage

**Weapons are safest when least accessible:**

- **Unloaded**
- **Locked up**
- **Ammunition locked in another location**

**Accessible weapons demand extra precautions**

## Most Secure:

Unloaded with  
action locked open



**Rapid-access storage box  
prevents access without  
knowing the code**











BREAKING

## 5-year-old shoots another 5-year-old in Chesterfield

Posted: Jan 12, 2015 12:08 PM EST

Updated: Jan 13, 2015 9:25 AM EST

By Ray Daudani **CONNECT**

CHESTERFIELD, VA (WWBT) - A Richmond man is facing charges after a 5-year-old used his gun to shoot another 5-year-old, according to Chesterfield Police.

Investigators say a child found the gun at the Winchester Greens Apartments and shot his friend. Officers are faulting William Griffin, 28, for the crime. Neighbors say he's the boyfriend of the victim's mother and say he even cares for the child like he's his own. Police say he owned the gun and is being charged with felony child abuse and neglect. "There was a scream and then my neighbor was knocking on my door saying, 'help me, my baby'," said a nurse who lives next door to where it all unfolded. She doesn't want to be identified but rushed to the little boy's aid.

"If you have an entrance wound, you've got to have an exit, so I rolled him over to see," she said. "I basically sandwiched him in my hands, elevated his feet, loosened his clothing, so he wouldn't go into shock,"

Ten minutes later, emergency medical crews arrived to rush the child to the hospital. Chesterfield police say Griffin left his gun unsecured, providing easy access for three children who were playing upstairs while the adults were downstairs.

"Children are attracted to and can operate firearms that can cause severe injury or death. They tell you that in the manual," read Neil Bailey from a gun manufacturer's manual. He sells guns at Bob Moates Sport Shop in Chesterfield and informs every customer of the importance of gun locks, which he also sells.

"Most of them will come with two sets of keys and then there are firearms that have locks built into them," Bailey explained.

He also recommends lock boxes for easy access.

"It's really sad that the family is broken right now. The mother is at the hospital with the son," the neighbor said.

She is relieved to learn the little boy is expected to pull through.

"They're very good people and this was an accident. Accidents happen," the neighbor added.

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**In The News**



William Griffin was arrested and charged with abuse and neglect of children after a 5-year-old shot another boy, according to police. (Source: Chesterfield Police Dept.)



Police say the 5-year-old was shot in the 7500 block of Bensley Park Boulevard around 8:50 p.m. Sunday (Source: NBC12)

# Children and Weapons

# Children and Guns

Even when you store your firearm safely –  
do your neighbors?

## **What Every Child Should Know If They Encounter A Firearm**

- 1. Stop what they are doing.**
- 2. Do not touch the firearm**
- 3. Leave the area immediately.**
- 4. Tell an adult.**



# Project ChildSafe<sup>SM</sup> Pledge

## I Hereby Promise:

- **I Promise,** *I will not handle guns without permission from a grown-up that I know.*
- **I Promise,** *I will never play with guns.*
- **I Promise,** *If I find a gun, I will not touch it; I will tell a grown-up right away.*
- **I Promise,** *I will obey the rules of safe gun handling.*

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



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[www.projectchildsafe.org](http://www.projectchildsafe.org)



PROJECT  
**SAFE**  
NEIGHBORHOODS



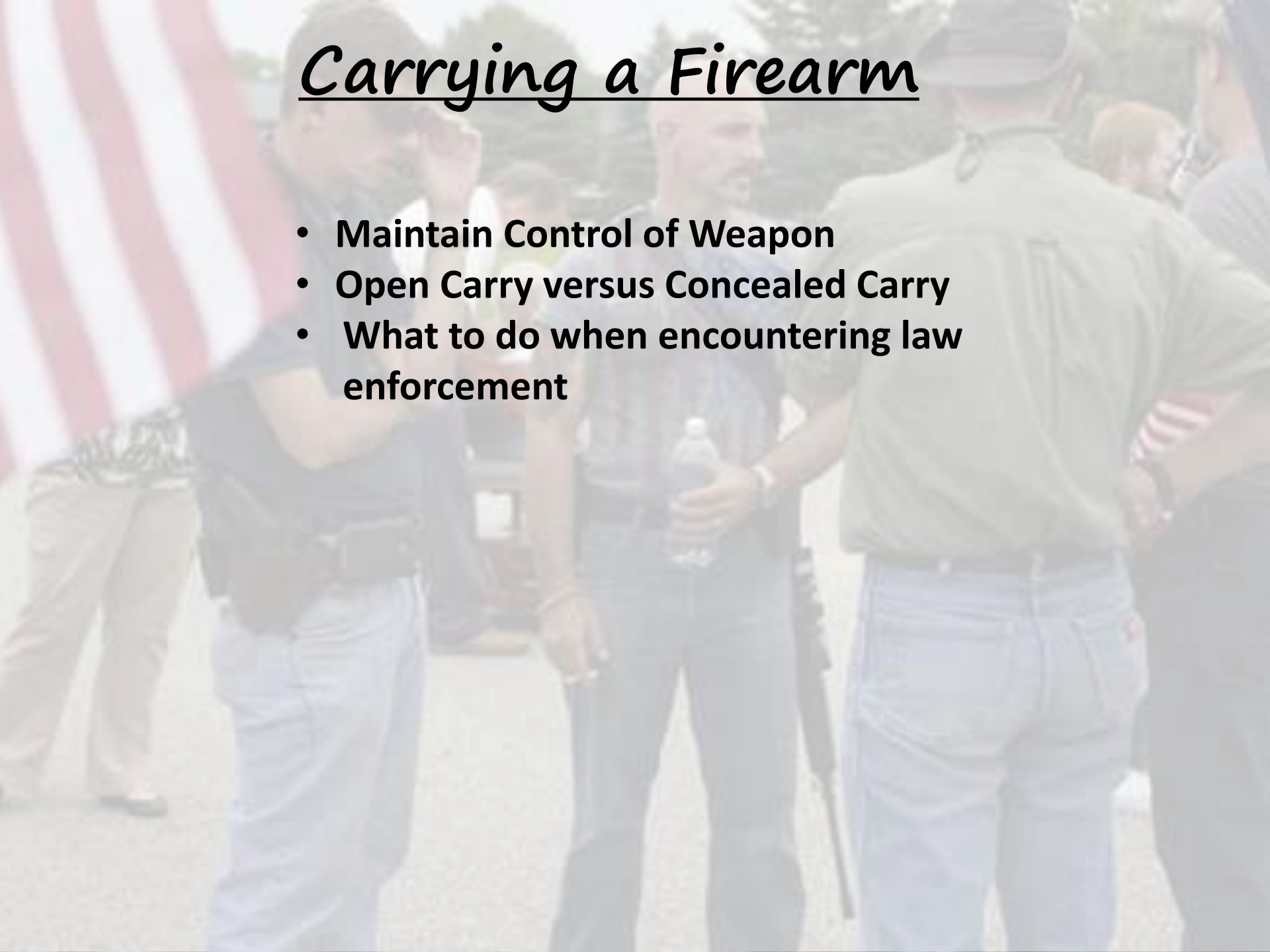
# *Develop a Family Safety Plan*

- Who will have access?
- Who will be taught fundamental rules of gun safety?
- Do family members know the hazards weapons pose?
- How and where will the weapon and ammo be stored?
- Where will the keys or combinations be stored?
- Will the plan be updated as children age or family circumstances change?
- Will all family members discuss and agree to the plan?



# *Carrying a Firearm*

- **Maintain Control of Weapon**
- **Open Carry versus Concealed Carry**
- **What to do when encountering law enforcement**



# Maintaining Control of Weapon



- Use a quality holster
  - Characteristics:
    - Covers the trigger
    - Stays in place
    - Comfortable enough to use for long periods
    - Retains gun until needed
    - Releases gun when needed
- Maintain Control of your Weapon
- Concealed versus Open Carry
- Follow All Federal, State, and Local laws.



# Virginia Law For Carrying Firearms

Virginia Law § 18.2-308

**Carrying concealed weapons; exceptions; penalty.**

A. If any person carries about his person, hidden from common observation, (i) any pistol, revolver, or other weapon designed or intended to propel a missile of any kind by action of an explosion of any combustible material; (ii) any dirk, bowie knife, switchblade knife, ballistic knife, machete, razor, slingshot, spring stick, metal knucks, or blackjack; (iii) any flailing instrument consisting of two or more rigid parts connected in such a manner as to allow them to swing freely, which may be known as a nun chahka, nun chuck, nunchaku, shuriken, or fighting chain; (iv) any disc, of whatever configuration, having at least two points or pointed blades which is designed to be thrown or propelled and which may be known as a throwing star or oriental dart; or (v) any weapon of like kind as those enumerated in this subsection, he is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

# Elements of the Concealed Carry Weapon (CCW) Law

Licensees may carry concealed dangerous weapons:

- Handgun
- Electric weapon
- Legal knives

A license does not allow carry of a concealed:

- Short-barrel rifle
- Short-barrel shotgun
- Machine gun
- Illegal knives
  - Butterfly knives, switchblades, etc.





# Virginia Resident Concealed Handgun Permits



**Virginia Resident Concealed Handgun Permits are issued by the circuit court of the county or city in which the applicant resides. Please contact the applicable court for specific instruction on the application process.**

# *“Open Carry” vs. Concealed Carry*

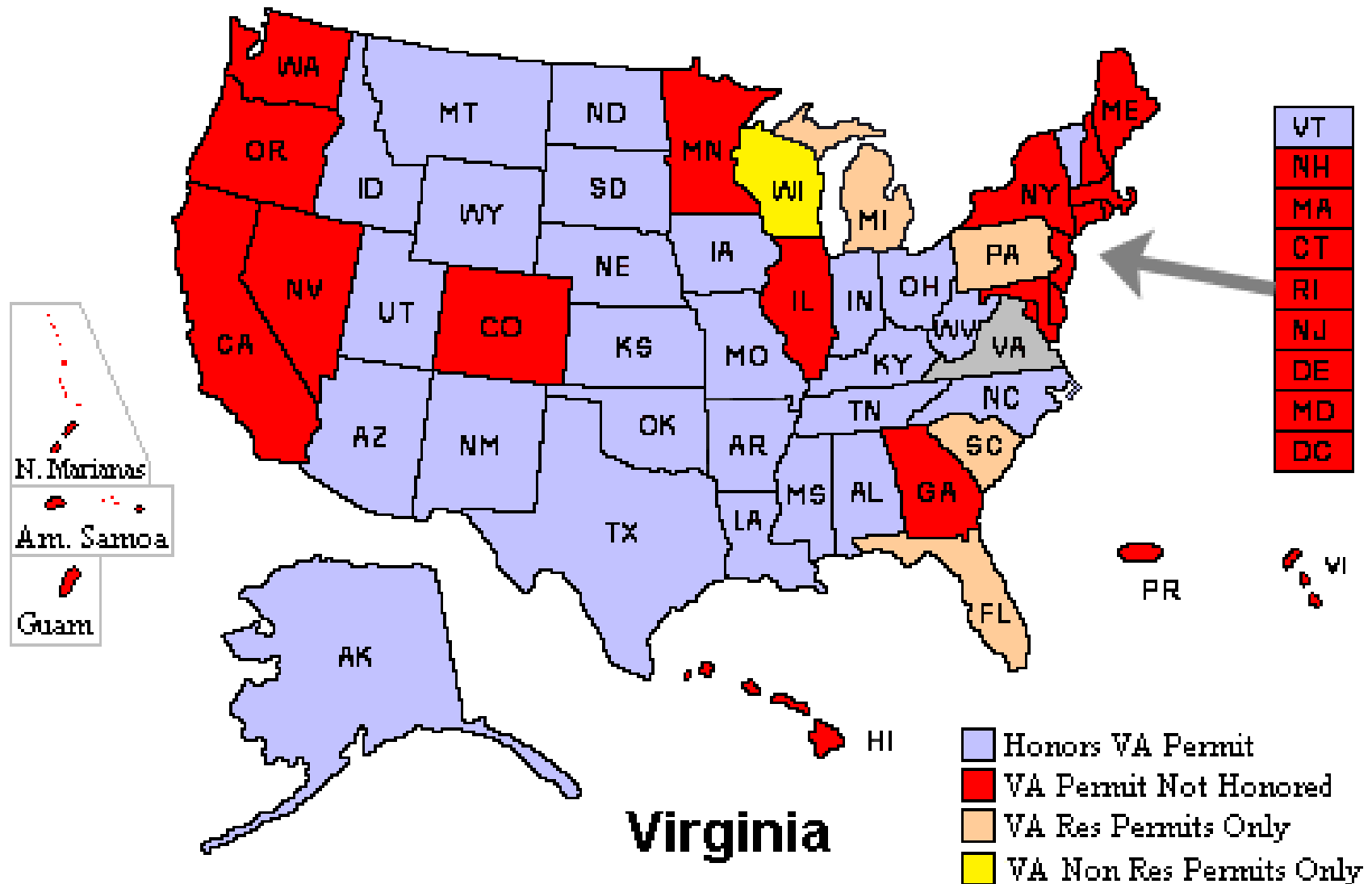
**A firearm may be carried openly in Virginia except where prohibited by statute.**

**When carrying a weapon concealed, you must also carry:**

- **Conceal Carry Permit and**
- **photo identification issued by a government agency of the Commonwealth or by the United States Department of Defense or United States Department (passport)**

**You must show your license upon the request of a law enforcement officer.**

**Virginia extends reciprocity or recognition to citizens holding both resident and non-resident permits/licenses from the following jurisdictions as set forth below:**



# Where You Cannot Carry a Weapon

- Police stations, sheriff's offices, state patrol stations, or offices of DOJ special agents
- Prisons, jails, houses of correction, or secured correctional facilities
- County, state, or federal courthouses
- Municipal courtrooms if court is in session
- Beyond airport security checkpoints
- To a place of worship while a meeting for religious purposes is being held at such place, without good and sufficient reason.
- School property
- Anywhere while under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs
- When "no weapon" signs are posted or you are told weapons are prohibited:
  - Businesses
  - Private property or land
  - State or local government buildings
  - At special events
  - In public or private university or college buildings



The background of the slide features two police officers in uniform. The officer on the left is a white man with short, light-colored hair, smiling slightly. The officer on the right is a Black man, also smiling. Both are wearing dark blue police uniforms with visible badges and patches. The background is a soft-focus outdoor setting with greenery.

# Encounters with Law Enforcement

- **Tell the officer you have a concealed carry license and is carrying a weapon.**
  - **Do not reach for the weapon or make any quick movements.**
  - **Keep your hands visible**
- **During Traffic Stops**
  - **Stay in the vehicle**
  - **Roll down your window**
  - **Turn on the vehicle's dome light at night**
  - **Place your hands on the steering wheel**
- **Follow the officer's instructions**

# *Resources:*

## **The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia - Center for Injury Research and Prevention**

<https://injury.research.chop.edu/violence-prevention-initiative/types-violence-involving-youth/gun-violence/gun-violence-facts-and>

## **Virginia State Police**

[www.vsp.state.va.us/Firearms.shtm](http://www.vsp.state.va.us/Firearms.shtm)

## **Virginia General Assembly**

<https://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?000+cod+18.2-308>

# FIREARMS

## Questions & Comments



Division Website  
[www.dcp.virginia.gov](http://www.dcp.virginia.gov)



The background of the slide is a composite image. On the left side, there is a faded, semi-transparent American flag with its characteristic stars and stripes. Overlaid on the right side of the flag are several colorful fireworks exploding in the night sky. The fireworks display a variety of colors including red, green, yellow, and white, with long, trailing sparks. The overall image has a soft, slightly blurred quality.

# **FIREWORK SAFETY**

# July 4<sup>th</sup> and Fireworks

Fireworks are an American tradition. They can provide hours of wholesome, family entertainment, but must be used by adults carefully and safely



They are dangerous to users, pets, and the environment. In many areas of Virginia, fireworks could become a cause of wildfires.



## Fireworks Safety *for pets*

- Keep your pets secured INSIDE your home.** Even dogs in fenced yards find ways to escape the scary sounds.
- Give them a safe place to hide.** Set up a comfortable room or crate in your house just for them.
- Use ambient noise to mask the noise.** A radio or TV playing comforting music works well.
- Update their IDs & microchips** (*just in case*).
- Skip the celebration and stay home with them.** Sometimes your presence makes all the difference.
- Keep them busy.** Treat toys, like Kongs, can help distract them during the display.

[thatpetplace.com](http://thatpetplace.com)



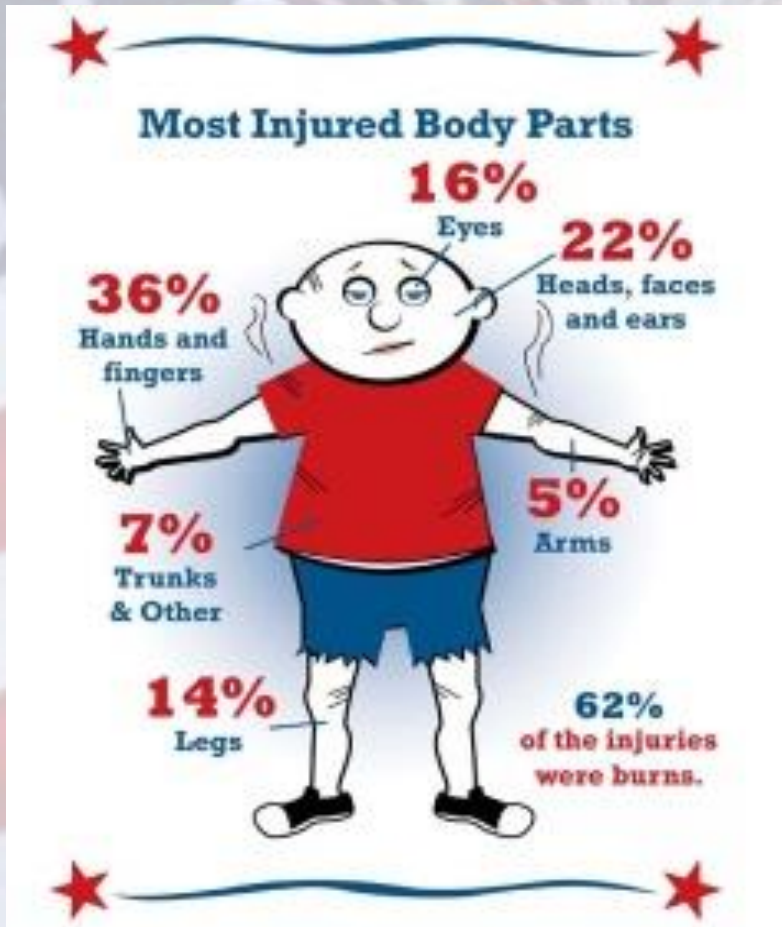
**Fireworks that have finished burning are still extremely hot, and they can smolder in dry grass or leaves before a fire ignites. One spark is all it would take for a wildfire to start.**



# FIREWORKS are a

In 2013, CPSC staff conducted a study of fireworks injuries from June 21 through July 21.

**BLAST**



★ **240** people on average go to the emergency room every day with fireworks-related injuries in the month around the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday.

★ **Illegal** and **homemade fireworks** were involved in all **8** fireworks-related **deaths** reported to CPSC in 2013.



Many types of fireworks (including firecrackers, sparklers, bottle rockets, skyrockets, torpedoes and other fireworks that explode, travel laterally, rise into the air, or fire projectiles into the air) are illegal in Virginia unless you are a licensed contractor.



FIREWORK COMPARISON	
Specifications of National Model Code and Standards	Virginia Specifications
International Fire Code (IFC) model and NFPA Standards 1123, 1124 & 1126	Code of Virginia and Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code (as built upon IFC and incorporated by reference) and NFPA Standards 1123, 1124 & 1126.
<p><b>Fireworks 1.3G (Formerly Class B, Special Fireworks)</b></p> <p>*Large fireworks devices, which are explosive materials, intended for use in fireworks displays and designed to produce audible or visible effects by combustion, deflagration or detonation. Such 1.3G fireworks include, but are not limited to, firecrackers containing more than 130 milligrams (2 grains) of explosive composition, aerial shells containing more than 40 grams of pyrotechnic composition, and other display pieces which exceed the limits for classification as 1.4G fireworks. Such 1.3G fireworks, are also described as Fireworks, UN0335 by the DOTn.*</p> <p>[Regulated by IFC model fire code and NFPA 1123 and 1126.]</p>	<p><b>Fireworks (§ 27-95 of the Code of Virginia)</b></p> <p>*Any firecracker, torpedo, skyrocket, or other substance or object, of whatever form or construction, that contains any explosive or inflammable compound or substance, and is intended, or commonly known, as fireworks and which explodes, rises into the air or travels laterally, or fires projectiles into the air. Fireworks shall not include automobile flares, paper caps containing not more than an average of 0.25 grain (16 mg) of explosive content per cap or toy pistols, toy canes, toy guns or other devices utilizing such caps, and items commonly known as party poppers, pop rocks and snap-n-pops.*</p> <p>[Repealed in SFPC from § 27-95 of the COV. Regulated by SFPC and NFPA 1123 and 1126.]</p> <p>(NOTE: Includes what is sometimes referred to as high-end or consumer fireworks.)</p>
<p><b>Fireworks 1.4G (Formerly Class C, Common Fireworks or Consumer Fireworks)</b></p> <p>*Small fireworks devices containing restricted amounts of pyrotechnic composition designed primarily to produce visible or audible effects by combustion. Such 1.4G fireworks...comply with the construction, chemical composition and labeling regulations of the DOTn for Fireworks, UN 0336, and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission as set forth in CPSC 16 CFR: Parts 1500 and 1507...*</p> <p>[Prohibited by IFC model fire code unless allowed by applicable laws, ordinances and regulations and comply with CPSC and DOTn regulations for consumer fireworks.]</p>	<p><b>Permissible Fireworks (§ 27-95 of the Code of Virginia)</b></p> <p>*... means any sparklers, fountains, Pharaoh's serpents, caps for pistols, or pinwheels commonly known as whirlygigs or spinning jennies.*</p> <p>[Repealed in SFPC from § 27-95 of the COV. Not regulated if items comply with CPSC and DOTn regulations for consumer fireworks and not prohibited by local ordinance.]</p> <p>(NOTE: Sometimes referred to as low-end or "safe-n-sane" consumer fireworks.)</p>

In Virginia, firework permits must be obtained through a local fire official. If a locality does not have the services of a local fire official, a fireworks display permit may still be issued by the locality under authority granted by the following Code of Virginia section:

**§ 15.2-974. Permits for display of fireworks; use and exhibitions.** The governing bodies of the several counties, cities and towns shall have the power to provide for the issuance of permits for the display of fireworks by fair associations, amusement parks, or by any organization or group of individuals, under the minimum terms and conditions set forth in the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code (§ 27-94 et seq.) and any additional terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the locality. Any association, organization, or group that has been issued a permit may purchase and make use of fireworks under the terms and conditions of such permit.

Permits are not required for the use of "permissible fireworks" on private property with the permission of the property owner. But localities may have a local prohibition against "permissible fireworks". Please check with local government authorities on any local restrictions.



**A good alternative to personal fireworks are the  
community displays.**

RVA Fireworks on the James  
Brown's Island in Downtown  
Richmond

Friday, July 3, 2015 9:15pm

[www.venturerichmond.com](http://www.venturerichmond.com)

Chesterfield County Fairgrounds  
10300 Courthouse Road  
Chesterfield, VA

Saturday July 4, 2015

[www.chesterfield.gov](http://www.chesterfield.gov)

Byrd Park  
1300 Blanton Ave.  
Richmond, VA

Saturday, July 4, 2015 7pm-9pm

[www.visitrichmondva.com](http://www.visitrichmondva.com)



# Fireworks Safety Tips

- ★ Never allow **children** to play with or ignite fireworks.
- ★ **Never** try to **re-light** or **pick up** fireworks that have not ignited fully.
- ★ Keep a **bucket of water** or a **garden hose** handy in case of fire or other mishap.
- ★ Make sure fireworks are **legal** in your area before buying or using them.
- ★ Light fireworks **one at a time**, then **move back** quickly.
- ★ More Fireworks Safety Tips –  
**[www.cpsc.gov/fireworks](http://www.cpsc.gov/fireworks)**

Source: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission 2012 Fireworks Annual Report



**U.S. Consumer Product  
Safety Commission**

**CPSC Hotline: (800) 638-2772**

**[www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov)**



The background of the slide features a faded American flag with its stars and stripes. Overlaid on the flag are several vibrant, colorful fireworks exploding in the sky, with streaks of light in shades of green, yellow, orange, and red.

# *Resources:*

**United States Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)**

<http://www.cpsc.gov/fireworks>

**Virginia Department of Forestry**

<http://www.dof.virginia.gov/fire/safety/fireworks.htm>



# Questions & Comments



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[www.dcp.virginia.gov](http://www.dcp.virginia.gov)

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# TRAFFIC AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

July 29, 2015  
12 p.m.

Monroe Building

SHARE  
THE  
ROAD



Bike Right

Walk Left

Drive Wise